

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) An image pickup system ~~including a plurality of image pickup apparatuses connected to a predetermined communication medium, wherein,~~ comprising:

a plurality of image pickup apparatuses; and

a control apparatus adapted to set one of said plurality of image pickup apparatuses as a master camera,

~~one of said plurality of image pickup apparatuses comprises~~ wherein said master camera includes (a) a synchronization information generating means for generating unit adapted to generate synchronization information for synchronizing said plurality of image pickup apparatuses and transmitting means for transmitting (b) a communication unit adapted to transmit said synchronization information to said plurality of image pickup apparatuses, and (c) a frame synchronization signal generating unit adapted to generate a frame synchronization signal using said synchronization information and time information for managing a communication cycle of said communication unit, and (d) an image data generating unit adapted to generate image data using said frame synchronization signal.

~~each of said plurality of image pickup apparatuses comprises receiving means for receiving said synchronization information, frame synchronization signal generating means for generating a frame synchronization signal on the basis of said synchronization~~

~~information, and image data generating means for generating image data on the basis of said frame synchronization signal.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein said ~~frame synchronization signal generating means generates said frame synchronization signal by using time information for managing a predetermined communication cycle and~~ communication unit is adapted to transmit said synchronization information by an isochronous transfer.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein said ~~predetermined communication medium conforms with the IEEE1394-1995~~ communication unit conforms to IEEE 1394-1995 standard or its extended standard.

6. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus comprising:

a synchronization information generating means for generating unit adapted to generate synchronization information for synchronizing a plurality of image pickup apparatuses ~~connected to a predetermined communication medium;~~

~~transmitting means for transmitting~~ a communication unit adapted to transmit said synchronization information to said plurality of image pickup apparatuses;

a frame synchronization signal generating means for generating unit adapted to generate a frame synchronization signal ~~on the basis of~~ using said synchronization information and time information for managing a communication cycle of said communication unit; and

an image data generating means for generating unit adapted to generate image data on the basis of using said frame synchronization signal.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said ~~frame synchronization signal generating means generates said frame synchronization signal by using time information for managing a predetermined communication cycle and~~ communication unit is adapted to transmit said synchronization information by an isochronous transfer.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said ~~predetermined communication medium conforms with the IEEE1394-1995~~ communication unit conforms to IEEE 1394-1995 standard or its extended standard.

9. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus comprising:  
~~receiving means for receiving a communication unit adapted to receive synchronization information for synchronizing a plurality of image pickup apparatuses connected to a predetermined communication medium from one of said plurality of image pickup apparatuses~~ a master camera;

a frame synchronization signal generating means for generating unit adapted to generate a frame synchronization signal on the basis of using said synchronization information and time information for managing a communication cycle of said communication unit; and

an image data generating means for generating unit adapted to generate image data on the basis of using said frame synchronization signal.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said ~~frame synchronization signal generating means generates said frame synchronization signal by using time information for managing a predetermined communication cycle and~~ communication unit is adapted to receive said synchronization information by an isochronous transfer.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said ~~predetermined communication medium conforms with the IEEE1394-1995~~ communication unit conforms to IEEE 1394-1995 standard or its extended standard.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling an image pickup apparatus, comprising the steps of:

generating synchronization information for synchronizing a plurality of image pickup apparatuses ~~connected to a predetermined communication medium;~~

transmitting said synchronization information to said plurality of image pickup apparatuses using a communication unit;

generating a frame synchronization signal ~~on the basis of~~ using said synchronization information and time information for managing a communication cycle of said communication unit; and

generating image data ~~on the basis of~~ using said frame synchronization signal.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12, wherein ~~said frame synchronization signal is generated by using time information for managing a predetermined communication cycle and~~ said synchronization information is transmitted by an isochronous transfer.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12, wherein said ~~predetermined communication medium conforms with the IEEE1394-1995~~ communication unit conforms to the IEEE 1394-1995 standard or its extended standard.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling an image pickup apparatus, comprising the steps of:

receiving synchronization information for synchronizing a plurality of image pickup apparatuses ~~connected to a predetermined communication medium from one of said plurality of image pickup apparatuses~~ a master camera using a communication unit;

generating a frame synchronization signal ~~on the basis of~~ using said synchronization information and time information for managing a communication cycle of said communication unit; and

generating image data ~~on the basis of~~ using said frame synchronization signal.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein ~~said frame synchronization signal is generated by using time information for managing a predetermined communication cycle and~~ said synchronization information is received by an isochronous transfer.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein said ~~predetermined communication medium conforms with the IEEE1394-1995~~ communication unit conforms to IEEE 1394-1995 standard or its extended standard.